Claims

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1. A cancellation system for echo or crosstalk noise in a communications transceiver for a plurality of channels, the system comprising a channel circuit comprising taps for each channel and means for training the taps by setting coefficient values, characterised in that:-

at least some of the channel circuits (11(a) - 11(d)) each comprise insufficient taps for a full span;

each of said channel circuits further comprises a variable delay line (vdl) connected in series with the taps;

the training means comprises means for setting length of each variable delay line so that positions of the taps are optimised.

- A cancellation system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the training means
 comprises means for sharing taps from another channel circuit when
 training each channel circuit in order to achieve a full span for each
 channel during training.
- 3. A cancellation system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each channel circuit comprises a plurality of variable delay lines (n_vdl, f_vdl) separated by taps.

4. A cancellation system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the taps are arranged in at least one block (f_echo) having a fixed number of taps.

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- 5. A canceller as claimed in claim 4, wherein the training means comprises means for determining an optimum position for each tap block to set the length of the variable delay line.
- 5 6. A cancellation system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the training means comprises means for determining a coefficient sum for each of a plurality of candidate windows, and choosing the window providing the maximum coefficient sum.
- 10 7. A cancellation system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the training means comprises means for determining an optimum position for each block subject to pre-set constraints.
- 8. A cancellation system as claimed in claim 7, wherein a constraint is a maximum length for the variable delay line.
 - 9. A cancellation system as claimed in claim 7, wherein a constraint is that tap blocks do not overlap.
- 20 10. A cancellation system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each channel circuit comprises, in series: a near variable delay line, a near tap block, a far variable delay line, and a far tap block.
- 11. A cancellation system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each variable delay
 25 line comprises cascaded register blocks linked by multiplexers
 comprising means for bypassing a register block or feeding data through
 it according to training control signals setting a delay length.
 - 12. A cancellation system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the training means comprises an adaptation module for at least one tap block.

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- 13. A cancellation system as claimed in claim 12, wherein at least some adaptation modules comprise means for training two or more tap blocks.
- 5 14. A cancellation system for echo or crosstalk noise in a communication transceiver for a plurality of channels, the system comprising a channel circuit comprising taps for each channel and means for training the taps by setting coefficient values, characterised in that:-
- at least some of the channel circuits (11(a) 11(d)) each comprise insufficient taps for a full span;

each of said channel circuits further comprises a variable delay line (vdl) connected in series with the taps;

the training means comprises means for sharing taps from another channel circuit when training each channel circuit in order to achieve a full span for each channel during training; and

the training means comprises means for determining an optimum position for each tap block to set the length of the variable delay line, said means comprising means for determining a coefficient sum for each of a plurality of candidate windows, and choosing the window providing the maximum coefficient sum.